


BOOKS WORTH READING

For those interested in a clear and penetrating history of political thought from ancient Greek, Roman, and Medieval periods to the present, there is no better book than Michael Oakeshott's *Lectures in the History of Political Thought*, based on the lecture course he delivered at the London School of Economics 1966 – 1967.

What makes these lectures outstanding is that Oakeshott draws out the changing conceptions of society that shaped the political thinking and concerns of each era. The religious traditions of each age also play a major role in how human nature and society are conceived. For example, one cannot properly understand Greek politics without understanding Greek cosmology, the gods, or the Greek conception of nature. Similarly, Oakeshott shows how the politics of Rome can be grasped only through understanding that Roman citizenship meant being part of the cult of Romulus, so that for the Romans citizenship and religion were the same. All changes in the middle ages with the rise of Christianity, as the early parliaments emerge and also the tradition of natural law takes shape. Likewise in our own times, the wider conceptions of human nature and of the nature of society inform all political thought, which in turn informs and shapes economic thinking.

A new series of books has been launched entitled *Sources in Early Modern Economics, Ethics, and Law*, providing translations and editions of works of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries previously unavailable. Of particular interest is *Of the Law of Nature* by the renowned jurist Sir Matthew Hale. This work clearly counters the rationalist movement initiated by Bacon and Hobbes.

Grounded in the English common law and scholastic natural law traditions, it seeks to maintain the connection with tradition in which 'justice' is understood as part of the order of nature, and not merely a human construct, nor derived from contractual agreement. Hale directly opposes the notion of the 'state of nature' as 'war of all against all', though not mentioning Hobbes by name. This book offers a most valuable insight into the conflict of political and economic ideas that raged at that time, something usually passed over in the histories of political and economic thought. This new series aims to remedy that important omission. 



HGF BRIEFING NOTES

FRIDAY MEETINGS AT MANDEVILLE PLACE

The always popular Friday afternoon group has recently started studying *The Science of Political Economy* by Henry George, published in 1897. Anyone interested can attend; free of charge.



TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

As has been the tradition for many years The Henry George Foundation continues to offer interesting talks and presentations at Mandeville Place in central London.

Recent themes include *The Opportunities and Dangers of Brexit and a Post Establishment World* and even more recently: *Henry George and the Laws of Nature - A Talk by Dr. Joseph Milne*.

All talks and presentations will be announced throughout the year on the HGF website www.henrygeorgefoundation.org

LAND&LIBERTY ARCHIVE GOES DIGITAL

Lastly: We are truly proud to announce that the full archive of Land&Liberty has finally been digitized. The archive is available to anyone curious about the history of land value taxation and economic policy in Great Britain, in the United States and the rest of the world.

Land&Liberty has been in continuous publication since its first release in the summer of 1894 under the original name *The Single Tax*. The magazine would later change its moniker to *Land Values* before becoming *Land&Liberty* in the summer of 1919.

Notable contributors throughout the magazine's history include Henry George, Leo Tolstoy, Louis Freeland Post, Mark Twain, Herbert Spencer and Michael Hudson amongst others. These and other interesting contributions are now available online.

The full archive can be found at the Henry George Foundation's website by typing the following link into your internet browser: www.henrygeorgefoundation.org/publications/land-liberty-archive.html 